

SIEC Briefing Paper on SIEC Interim Plan

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Description

As part of the SIEC's enabling legislation, an interim statewide public safety communication plan has to be completed and submitted to the state legislature no later than March 31, 2004.

The Interim Plan is designed to address important findings from the state agency inventory and provide a roadmap for the next 24 months to mitigate interoperability barriers. Although the state agency inventory did not include local government resources, local government did participate in this planning process. Recommendations contained in this report focus primarily on ways agencies can coordinate and collaborate to stretch limited resources currently available and create economies and synergies wherever possible. Any recommendations that require moderate or significant funding are so noted.

Short-term technical solutions will include the use of common Command and Control frequencies statewide and the deployment radio equipment caches.

Longer-term technical solutions will include the deployment of gateway devices and the identification of two additional wide-band frequencies. One additional frequency will be used as an alternate Command and Control frequency and the other to assist local jurisdictions that may need to re-locate from interoperability channels that are being used for normal business operations.

There are several policy issues that will require additional work by the SIEC and its committees. These issues are somewhat complex and generally involve changing the way state agencies do business, from each agency developing their own plans to a more statewide, enterprise approach. The SIEC will also have to discuss the need for proposed legislative changes.

Recommendations to the Committee

It is the recommendation of staff, that this plan be approved by the SIEC and sent to the legislature as required in Substitute House Bill 1271/Substitute Senate Bill 5975.

Status

This will complete the SIEC's second legislatively mandated requirement.

Issues

The Interim Plan includes a series of recommendations that will require additional staff and policy work prior to being implemented. Due to the number of policy related issues; the SIEC may need to meet on a more frequent basis for the duration of this planning process. Additionally, it is also likely that state agencies will need to devote additional staff resources to aid the SIEC and its mission.

Background

Work started on the Interim Communication plan following completion of the state inventory. The solutions contained in the Interim report although not elegant, would enable state and local government agencies to more effectively communicate with each other in a crisis.